processes with which the chemical theory can only deal by means of complicated and improbable accessory hypotheses/

If it be true, as our author asserts, that the hyphae which make up the substance of the mushroom are all essentially alike, of the same material constitution, then clearly there must be something over and above that constitution which effects the shaping of this growing mass into the form characteristic of the species. A field of force is the postulate made by Gurwitsch, who seems to have first drawn attention to the peculiarly interesting case of morphogenesis presented by the mushroom. But he seems to leave this field of force hanging in the air, as it were, without material basis. Commonly forces are conceived as the activities of things, and as being therefore inseparably bound up with ' the nature of those things ' —in short, forces as conceived in physics are abstractions from concrete events. But here, in Gurwitsch's proposed theory, the field of force would seem to figure as an independent reality—one might even say, as an entity. Bertalanfiy sums up on this proposal by saying: ' The main result of the field theory is, in our opinion, to have drawn attention to the fact that in development not only material but also purely energetical modes of action are to te considered. When we say this or that embryonic process is produced by ' forces * or * a field', the causes of the process are not thereby ' explained'—as some biologists seem to believe—but only *named.*' Indeed,

the term ' field | however useful as a descriptive term, does in this usage little more than point to the need for a dynamic theory.

pa a later page we shall have to touch on the *Gestalt* principle, which also postulates fields of force. In this